

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00557 161548Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

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P 161440Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1579

USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS CARACAS 0557

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJ: TIRE IMPORTS FREED

1. THROUGH A PRESS COMMUNIQUE, THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT HAS ANNOUNCED A MEASURE TO ALLOW DUTY-FEE IMPORT OF PNEUMATIC TIRES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS. REPORTEDLY THIS ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN ORDER TO OVERCOME A SHORTAGE RESULTING FROM THE ALLEGED FAILURE OF LOCAL TIRE MANUFACTURERS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION CAPACITY TO COINCIDE WITH GROWING DEMAND.
2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY DID NOT DESIGNATE TYPES OR SEIZES OF TIRES WHICH ARE EXONERATED FROM DUTY, BUT IT MAY BE INFERRED THAT SINCE THE MINISTRY STATED THAT THE MEASURE DEALS WITH "HIGH VOLUME" TIRE MODELS, THAT TIRES FOR PASSENGER CARS ARE THE MINISTRY'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN.
3. THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MINISTRY'S ANNOUNCEMENT, (1/15/76) TIRE INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED CONFUSION ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENT, SINCE IT DOES NOT SPECIFY THE TIRE MODELS INVOLVED. ONE INUDSTRY SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THERE IS "NO REASON" TO IMPORT PASSENGER CAR TIRES "SINCE LOCAL COMPANIES ARE IN A POSITION TO SALISFY LOCAL DEMAND".
4. THE MINISTRY'S STATEMENT INDICATED THAT IS EXPECTS THAT LOCAL TIRE MANUFACTURERS WILL BE ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR CAPACITY TO MEET DOMESTIC DEMAND BY THE TIME THE EXONERATION EXPIRES.

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5. THE SPECIFICS OF THE MINISTRY'S MEASURE WILL BE TRANSMITTED

AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES.

SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

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